

CLAIMS

1. A viewfinder device, comprising, in order an object side to a viewing eye side:

a first prism; and

a second prism disposed separately from said first prim across an air gap,

wherein said first prism, said air gap and said second prism are arranged in such a manner that an object light flux obtained within a viewing field passes through said first prism, said air gap and said second prism so as to reach the viewing eye, while an object light flux obtained outside the viewing field is totally reflected by surfaces of said first prism so as to be prevented from reaching the viewing eye.

2. A viewfinder device according to claim 1, wherein said first prism is in a convex shape protruding toward the viewing eye, and a part of said second prism on the object side is in a concave shape which is analogous to said convex shape.

3. A viewfinder device according to claim 1, wherein a composite optical power of said first prism and said second prism is nonpower.

4. A viewfinder device according to claim 1, wherein a surface of said first prism facing the object

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side is a flat surface, and a surface of said first prism facing said air gap has a flat top surface and four side surfaces forming a roof part in conjunction with the flat top surface, said four side surfaces being arranged to totally reflect the object light flux obtained outside the viewing field.

5. A viewfinder device according to claim 4, wherein each of said side surfaces is a curved surface.

6. A viewfinder device according to claim 5, wherein said side surfaces are in such shapes that are symmetrical with respect to a horizontal plane including a viewfinder optical axis.

7. A viewfinder device according to claim 5, wherein said side surfaces are in such shapes that are symmetrical with respect to a vertical plane including a viewfinder optical axis.

8. A viewfinder device according to claim 4, wherein each of said side surfaces is a flat surface.

9. A viewfinder device according to claim 1, wherein said air gap measures 1.4  $\mu\text{m}$  or more in thickness.

10. A viewfinder device according to claim 1,

wherein said first prism is a hexahedron in such a shape that a surface of said first prism facing the object side is in a square shape, and a top surface of a side of said first prism facing said air gap is in a square shape smaller in size than the square shape of the surface facing the object side.

11. A viewfinder device, comprising, in order from an object side to a viewing eye side:

a first prism having a convex portion facing the viewing eye side; and

a second prism disposed separately from said first prism across an air gap,

wherein an object light flux obtained within a viewing field passes through said first prism, said air gap and said second prism so as to reach the viewing eye, while an object light flux obtained outside the viewing field is totally reflected by the convex portion of said first prism so as to be prevented from reaching the viewing eye.

12. A viewfinder device according to claim 11, wherein a part of said second prism on the object side has a concave portion which is analogous in shape to the convex portion of said first prism.

13. A viewfinder device according to claim 11, wherein a composite optical power of said first prism and

said second prism is nonpower.

14. A viewfinder device according to claim 11, wherein a surface of said first prism facing the object side is a flat surface, and a surface of said first prism facing said air gap has a flat top surface and four side surfaces forming a roof part in conjunction with the flat top surface, said four side surfaces being arranged to totally reflect the object light flux obtained outside the viewing field.

15. A viewfinder device according to claim 14, wherein each of said side surfaces is a curved surface.

16. A viewfinder device according to claim 15, wherein said side surfaces are in such shapes that are symmetrical with respect to a horizontal plane including a viewfinder optical axis.

17. A viewfinder device according to claim 15, wherein said side surfaces are in such shapes that are symmetrical with respect to a vertical plane including a viewfinder optical axis.

18. A viewfinder device according to claim 14, wherein each of said side surfaces is a flat surface.

19. A viewfinder device according to claim 11,

wherein said air gap measures 1.4  $\mu\text{m}$  or more in thickness.

20. A viewfinder device according to claim 11, wherein said first prism is a hexahedron in such a shape that a surface of said first prism facing the object side is in a square shape, and a top surface of a side of said first prism facing said air gap is in a square shape smaller in size than the square shape of the surface facing the object side.

21. A camera comprising a viewfinder device according to claim 1.

22. A camera comprising a viewfinder device according to claim 11.

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